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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/541,137

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Emma Svenbrandt

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BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER

TO, TOAN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/25/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/541,137	Applicant(s) SVENBRANDT ET AL.	
	Examiner Toan C. To	Art Unit 3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-17 and 19-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/9/07; 7/12/06; 9/15/05; 6/29/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species 1, claims 1-10 and 18 in the reply filed on November 16, 2007 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 11-17, and 19-25 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on November 16, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Regarding claim 1, the phrase "of the type" renders the claim indefinite because the claim includes elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "of the type"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Komatsu (U.S. 6,206,466).

Komatsu discloses an air-bag unit for a vehicle seat having a squab and a back-rest, the back-rest including a frame (7) covered with upholstery (2); the air-bag unit (3) comprising an inflatable air-bag (17) connected to an inflator (see line 67 of column 4 to line 1 of column 5) to inflate the air-bag (17) upon deployment of the air-bag unit; the air-bag unit being mounted to the back-rest frame (7) so as to be located inboard of part of the frame with the inflator being positioned to direct gas into the air-bag in a generally forward direction relative to the back-rest (see figure 2), such that the deployment of the air-bag unit will cause the air-bag to inflate so that at least part of the air-bag lies between the frame and an occupant of the vehicle seat; wherein the air-bag unit is mounted such that the inflator is located adjacent a rear-most region of the frame (7), so that a significant length of the air-bag bears against the frame as the air-bag is inflated upon the deployment.

With respect to claims 2-4, Komatsu discloses an air-bag unit, wherein the air-bag unit (3) further comprises a cover (11) within which the air-bag (17) is initially packed, the cover (11) defining a break-line (P) configured to break upon the deployment of the air-bag such that the inflating air-bag bursts out of the cover (11); the cover being configured such that a part of the cover (11) engages the back-rest frame (7) upon inflation of the air-bag so as to extend substantially forwardly of the frame (7) and to define a support against which the air-bag (17) bears upon inflation; wherein the

part of the cover 11 is configured to engage the frame (7) so as also to extend inboard of the frame (7), wherein the part of the cover comprise a reinforcement rib (18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komatsu in view of Taguchi et al (U.S. 5,957,486).

Komatsu discloses every element of the invention as discussed above except that the air-bag unit comprises an inner air-bag and an outer air-bag, the inner air-bag being provided inside the outer air-bag, and both the inner and outer airbags being connected to the inflator so that the inner and outer air-bags are both inflated together upon the deployment of the air-bag unit; wherein the outer air-bag is larger than the inner air-bag in that the outer air-bag extends further forwards from the inflator when fully inflated as compared with the inner air-bag; wherein the inner and outer air-bags are initially provided in a packed condition in which the inner bag and at least part of the outer bag are folded together in a substantially zigzag manner about fold lines.

Taguchi et al teaches the invention wherein, the air-bag unit (2) comprises an inner air-bag (22) and an outer air-bag (21), the inner air-bag being provided inside the outer air-bag (21), and both the inner and outer airbags being connected to the inflator

(3) so that the inner and outer air-bags (22, 21) are both inflated together upon the deployment of the air-bag unit; wherein the outer air-bag (21) is larger than the inner air-bag (22) in that the outer air-bag extends further forwards from the inflator when fully inflated as compared with the inner air-bag; wherein the inner and outer air-bags are initially provided in a packed condition in which the inner bag and at least part of the outer bag *are* folded together in a substantially zigzag manner about fold lines (see figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the airbag unit for the seat of Komatsu by replacing his single airbag with a double airbags (bag within a bag) as taught by Taguchi et al such that the fold lines lying substantially parallel to a major axis of the back-rest extending away from the squab of Komatsu in order to decrease the impact of inflation to passengers upon the inflation of the airbag unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 8-10, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Toan C To/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3616
February 16, 2008